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# CIA presence here unsubstantiated

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There appears to be little evidence of Central Intelligence Agency use of University of Kansas professors as intelligence sources.

Several professors who have traveled in the Soviet Union and China said last week they had had little contact with personnel from any U.S. intelligence organization.

A report released last week by the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee said the CIA was using several hundred American university administrators, professors and graduate students for intelligence and propaganda purposes.

According to the committee, most of those university contacts were "purely for the purpose of asking an academic about his travels abroad or open, informal consulting on subjects of the academic's expertise."

The committee said those contacts posed "no danger to the integrity of American private institutions."

But one KU professor, Gerald Mikkelson, associate professor of Slavic language and literature, said Friday that intelligence gathering and academics should be kept apart.

Mikkelson said he had never been questioned by any government intelligence agent concerning what he saw in the Soviet Union, although he had been there six times in the past 10 years.

He said he wouldn't cooperate with any intelligence agency, except to refer them to whatever he might have read or written on a subject they were interested in.

George Bush, director of the CIA, said in a lecture last week at KU that he believed it was the right of college students and professors to voluntarily help the CIA.

In a telephone interview Friday, a CIA spokesman in Washington, D.C., said there was a domestic collection division within the CIA, responsible for interviewing citizens who wish to volunteer information to the CIA.

The agency spokesman said this sort of interviewing supplied a tremendously useful source of information.

"If we went overseas to collect the information we can get from professors about their travels the cost would be much greater," he said.

The CIA has about 35 domestic collection offices across the United States, the spokesman said, and interviews are done openly and only if the interviewee agrees to the interview. The CIA formerly had a domestic collection office in Kansas City, Mo., according to the CIA spokesman, but it was closed for economic reasons.

Chu-Tsing Li, professor of art history, said he had never been questioned by any government intelligence agents concerning visits he has made to China.

Li went to China two summers ago and said he wasn't asked to look for anything in China for the U.S. government before he left.

Robert Burton, lecturer in East Asian studies, Eastern civilization and Oriental language and literature, said he was contacted by someone from the CIA about 10 years ago, when he studied Chinese Communist history.

Burton said he had been in China before his conversation with the CIA man.

The CIA man called and asked if he could speak to him, Burton said. The two met and discussed what Burton might know about particular Chinese officials.

"I haven't seen them (the CIA) for years," Burton said, "probably because my knowledge is old—about the early Communist movement in China."

William C. Fletcher, professor of Slavic and Soviet Area Studies, said he had never been debriefed by anyone from the CIA.

Fletcher, who is leaving with the Warsaw Exchange Program in a week, said the department had all student exchange participants sign a statement saying they wouldn't accept any assignment for any intelligence agency, from the United States

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